

REMARKS

Claims 46-65 are pending in this application. Claims 1-45 have been canceled. Claims 46-65 have been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

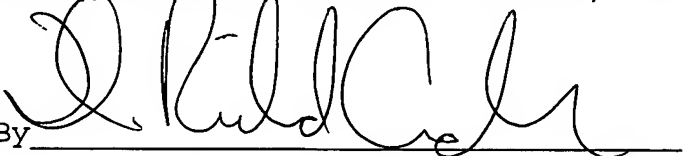
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


By _____

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

Law
DRA/CMV/jdm
0020-5123P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000